



Biotech Daily

Thursday August 8, 2024

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: CYNATA UP 8%; ATOMO DOWN 8%**
- * **QIMR CAR T CELLS 'KILL GLIOBLASTOMA, IN MICE'**
- * **SYNTARA: \$2.5m FOR GERMAN SNT-5505 BLOOD CANCER TRIAL**
- * **LTR: 2nd SPONTAN TGA SAS PRESCRIBER**
- * **RESONANCE TO OPEN NORTHERN PERTH TRIALS WEST SITE**
- * **NUHEARA APPOINTS KPMG VOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATORS**
- * **LITTLE GREEN 3.2m M-D, DIRECTOR OPTIONS AGM**
- * **TISSUE REPAIR APPOINTS CO-FOUNDER TONY CHARARA CEO**
- * **ACTINOGEN REQUESTS 'TRIAL RESULTS' TRADING HALT**
- * **TRYPTAMINE REQUESTS 'STUDY UPDATE' TRADING HALT**
- * **CURVEBEAM TO RELEASE 33.5m ASX ESCROW SHARES**
- * **HSBC, ASSOCIATES DILUTED TO 18% OF SYNTARA**
- * **PLATINUM REDUCES TO 16% OF SYNTARA**
- * **REGAL FUNDS TAKES 10% OF MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS**
- * **FIL (FIDELITY) DILUTED BELOW 5% OF MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS**
- * **PENGANA BELOW 5% OF AMPLIA**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock fell 0.23 percent on Thursday August 8, 2024, with the ASX200 down 17.8 points to 7,682.0 points. Twelve of the Biotech Daily Top 40 companies were up, 21 were down, five traded unchanged and two were untraded.

Cynata was the best, on publication of lung fibrosis mouse results, up 1.5 cents or 7.7 percent to 21 cents, with 208,290 shares traded. Amplia climbed 6.3 percent; Clarity, Genetic Signatures, Imugene and Medadvisor rose two percent or more; Medical Developments, Mesoblast, Orthocell, SDI and Starpharma were up more than one percent; with Cochlear, CSL and Nanosonics up by less than one percent.

Yesterday's 9.1 percent best, Atomo, led the falls, down 0.2 cents or 8.3 percent to 2.2 cents, with 42,015 shares traded. Syntara shed 6.7 percent; Alcidion lost 5.5 percent; Curvebeam, Micro-X and Nova Eye fell more than four percent; Avita, Impedimed and Percheron were down more than three percent; 4D, Aroa, Clinuvel, Dimerix, Opthea, Paradigm, Prescient and Resmed shed two percent or more; Emvision, Polynovo, Proteomics and Telix lost more than one percent; with Pro Medicus down by 0.1 percent.

QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BERGHOFER

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer says its chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) T cells can kill glioblastoma brain cancer cells, in mice.

QIMR Berghofer said it had developed a genetically-engineered CAR-T cell immunotherapy for glioblastoma, the most common type of primary brain cancer in adults, and potentially prevented their recurrence.

The Institute said its “super-charged” CAR-T immune cells targeted the Eph-A3 (ephrin type-A receptor three) protein commonly found in glioblastoma tumors.

QIMR said the study had shown positive results in pre-clinical models of patient-derived glioblastoma organoids made from human cells and tissue.

The Institute said the study, titled ‘EphA3 CAR T cells are effective against glioblastoma in preclinical models’ was published in the Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer, with the full article available at: <https://jitc.bmj.com/content/12/8/e009403>.

QIMR said it expected to proceed to a phase I clinical trial of the therapy with patients with Eph-A3-positive glioblastoma “within the next year”.

The Institute said its spinout company Cyteph would advance the development of the Eph-A3 CAR T-cells as an “off-the-shelf” therapy.

QIMR researcher Prof Rajiv Khanna said the therapy targeted cancer cells to prevent disease recurrence, which would be “a breakthrough for patients with this deadly disease”. “Primary brain cancer can often be managed if recurrence is prevented,” Prof Khanna said, but “unfortunately, once brain cancer recurs, the current life expectancy is typically less than six months”. “Our goal is to prevent recurrence by treating the disease at its earliest stage.”

Prof Khanna said the results suggested the CAR-T cells could eliminate treatment-resistant tumor cells by destroying newly-formed cancerous blood vessels and stem cells.

SYNTARA (FORMERLY PHARMAXIS)

Syntara says Deutsche Krebshilfe (German Cancer Aid) has granted Heidelberg University \$2.5 million to for an up-to 42 patient SNT-5505 phase Ib/II blood cancer trial. Syntara said the trial was for patients with high-risk myelo-dysplastic syndrome (MDS) and chronic myelo-monocytic leukemia (CMML) and would begin by April 2025.

The company said the study followed a collaboration with Heidelberg University that resulted in research published in Nature Communications in 2023 showing the “doubling of response rate to standard therapy when combined with pan-LOX inhibitor SNT-5505”.

Last year, the then Pharmaxis said the study with Heidelberg University showed “significantly restored” formation of red blood cells when myelo-dysplastic mice were treated with the then PXS-5505 and 5-azacytidine (5-AZA) (BD: Mar 23, 2023).

Syntara said seven centres in Germany had agreed to participate in the study, with the trial to begin with a dose-escalation phase of two doses of SNT-5505 administered to up-to 12 patients over six months, combined with hypo-methylated 5-AZA.

The company said an expansion phase of 30 patients would follow, and patients would receive the selected dose of SNT-5505 and 5-AZA for a further six months.

Syntara said myelodysplastic syndrome comprised a group of blood cancers with clinical and pathological features similar to acute myeloid leukemia, and was most common in older adults, with the current standard-of-care including treatment with hypomethylating agents like five-azacytidine and decitabine.

Syntara said the \$2.5 million grant would cover the costs of the study, with Syntara to provide SNT-5505 for the trial.

Syntara fell 0.2 cents or 6.7 percent to 2.8 cents with 9.0 million shares traded.

LTR PHARMA

LTR says a second medical practitioner has approval to prescribe Spontan under the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration's special access scheme.

Earlier this week, LTR said the first erectile dysfunction patients had been dosed with its Spontan vardenafil, marketed as Levitra, nasal spray for erectile dysfunction under the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration's special access scheme (BD: Aug 5, 2024). Today, LTR said University of Queensland lecturer Dr Tom Silva and Brisbane's Kangaroo Point Medical Centre director, had begun prescribing Spontan to "select patients".

LTR was up two cents or 2.5 percent to 81 cents with 1.2 million shares traded.

RESONANCE HEALTH

Resonance says its Trialswest clinical trials business will open an additional site in Osborne Park, Perth, doubling "physical site and patient capacity".

In June, Resonance said it completed its acquisition of the Perth-based clinical trial and research centre Trialswest Pty Ltd for a total of \$7.2 million (BD: Jun 3, 2024).

Today, the company said the site would "form the basis of a northern suburbs' patient catchment area, with the existing Spearwood site continuing to service the southern suburbs catchment area".

Resonance said the additional site was the first step in its expansion strategy for Trialswest, which was "focused on delivering growth over multiple years, with further new sites being targeted along with complementary acquisitions".

Resonance chief executive officer Andrew Harrison said the company was "very pleased with the integration of the Trialswest business over the last month and the significant opportunity it represents as a platform for future growth".

Resonance was unchanged at 6.1 cents.

NUHEARA

Nuheara says it has appointed KPMG's Martin Jones, Matthew Woods and Clint Joseph as joint and several voluntary administrators, effective from August 7, 2024.

In April, Nuheara said it had "firm commitments" to raise \$1.85 million in a placement at six cents a share to support a review, restructure its investments and prioritize the completion of agreements with Realtek and Hewitt Packard (BD: Apr 9, 2024).

Today, the company said the appointment of Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) as administrators would allow it "to conclude its ongoing strategic review, given the impending maturing of its \$2.5m convertible note" with Realtek Semiconductor Corp.

In 2022, Nuheara said it raised \$2.5 million from Hsinchu, Taiwan-based Realtek through the issue of 2,500,000 convertible notes at \$1 each (BD: Sep 8, 2022).

Today, the company said the convertible notes matured on September 7, 2024 and it was "disappointed that it has been unable to reach a satisfactory commercial agreement with Realtek, regarding the convertible note ... [and] was "yet to receive an executed commercial and royalty agreement" and would work with Realtek to execute this agreement, which was important to the strategic review.

In a separate announcement, the ASX says it has extended the suspension of Nuheara from quotation under Listing Rule 12.2 for the company's financial condition not being "adequate to warrant the continued quotation of its securities".

Earlier this year, the ASX suspended Nuheara under Listing Rule 17.5 for "not lodging the relevant periodic report by the due date" (BD: Mar 1, 2024).

Nuheara last traded at 8.1 cents.

LITTLE GREEN PHARMA

Little Green says shareholders will vote to issue 2,000,000 options to executive director Angus Caithness and 1,200,000 options to managing-director Fleta Solomon.

In an announcement titled 'Addendum to Notice of Annual General Meeting' Little Green said the meeting would vote to issue the long-term incentive options to Mr Caithness and Ms Solomon in addition to their \$296,830 and \$216,152 yearly pays, respectively, with the options would be exercisable at 150 percent of the date of issue price by July 31, 2027.

In its original announcement, Little Green said investors would vote to adopt the remuneration report, re-elect directors Ms Solomon and Michael Lynch-Bell, approve the 10 percent placement facility, an auditor, the issue of non-executive retention rights and potential termination benefits as well as ratify the prior issue of consultant shares.

The meeting will be held online on August 29, 2024 at 3.30 pm (AWST).

Little Green Pharma fell 0.4 cents or 4.1 percent to 9.3 cents.

TISSUE REPAIR

Tissue Repair says it has appointed co-founder and executive director Tony Charara as its chief executive officer, effective immediately.

Tissue Repair said its board believed "the change in title reflects more accurately Mr Charara's role in the company since listing".

The company said it had become appropriate to make the change as it prepared to begin its "planned phase III trials for its TR-987 drug candidate for chronic wounds and sales growth of its TR Pro+ product for cosmetic and medical procedures starts to accelerate".

Tissue Repair said Mr Charara's fixed remuneration was unchanged and that he was eligible to receive a short-term incentive of up-to 20 percent of his yearly salary subject to performance hurdles and would be issued 750,000 long-term incentive options exercisable at \$1.15 each, subject to shareholder approval.

In 2021, Tissue Repair held a \$22 million initial public offer to list on the ASX at \$1.15 to develop its Glucoprime TR-987 for wound healing (BD: Nov 24, 2021).

In the prospectus, it said Mr Charara was paid \$50,000 a year in fees and would be entitled to "a cash bonus payment" for his role as an executive director.

Tissue Repair fell 1.5 cents or 4.3 percent to 33.5 cents.

ACTINOGEN MEDICAL

Actinogen has requested a trading halt pending an announcement regarding "the results of the 'Xanacidd' phase IIa clinical trial" of 10mg oral Xanamem.

In July, Actinogen said it completed the last patient visit in the trial for cognitive impairment in major depressive disorder, with top-line results expected in August (BD: Jul 2, 2024).

Trading will resume on August 12, 2024, or on an earlier announcement.

Actinogen last traded at 7.6 cents.

TRYPTAMINE THERAPEUTICS

Tryptamine has requested a trading halt pending the announcement of "an update relating to the company's TRP-8802, oral psilocybin study".

In July, Tryptamine said it had dosed all five patients in its phase IIa trial of TRP-8802 oral psilocybin with psycho-therapy for fibro-myalgia associated with pain (BD: Jul 10, 2024).

Trading will resume on August 12, 2024, or on an earlier announcement.

Tryptamine last traded at 2.1 cents.

[CURVEBEAM A.I.](#)

Curvebeam says it will release 33,481,162 shares from ASX escrow on August 15, 2024, and a further 824,350 shares from voluntary escrow on August 22, 2024.

Curvebeam told Biotech Daily that following its placement and accelerated rights offer and the release of shares from ASX escrow, it would have 307,375,665 shares quoted on the ASX and a further 67,993,892 shares in ASX escrow for a total of 375,369,557 shares.

On Monday, Curvebeam said it had commitments to raise \$9.9 million at 18.0 cents a share in an institutional placement and rights offer, with a \$3.7 million retail offer to go (BD: Aug 5, 2024).

Curvebeam fell one cent or 4.35 percent to 22 cents.

[SYNTARA](#)

HSBC Holdings and its controlled entities says its 234,254,944 substantial share-holding in Syntara has been diluted from 19.66 percent to 18.15 percent.

The London-based HSBC said that the registered holder of the shares included the Jersey, Channel Islands-based HSBC Trustee (C.I.), D&A Income Ltd, Edwards Family Holdings Ltd and BGE Limited Partnership GPCO.

Last month, Syntara said it had "firm commitments" for a \$5.0 million placement at 2.8 cents a share (BD: Jul 30, 2024).

[SYNTARA](#)

Platinum Investment Management says it has decreased its substantial shareholding in Syntara from 215,860,418 shares (18.08%) to 205,406,102 shares (15.92%).

The Sydney-based Platinum said that on April 15, 2024 it sold 10,454,316 shares for \$159,257, or 1.5 cents a share.

Platinum said HSBC Custody Nominees Ltd was the registered holder of securities.

[MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL](#)

Regal Funds Management says it has become a substantial shareholder of Medical Developments with 10,617,984 shares, or 10.16 percent.

The Sydney-based Regal Funds said that on August 5, 2024 it bought 7,412,072 shares for \$2,816,587, or 38.0 cents a share

In July, Medical Developments said it had raised \$6.9 million at 38.0 cents a share in an institutional placement and one-for-7.35 rights offer, with a \$3.1 million retail rights offer to follow (BD: Jul 26, 30, 2024).

Medical Developments was up half a cent or 1.3 percent to 40 cents.

[MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERNATIONAL](#)

FIL Limited (Fidelity Investment Management) says its 4,701,193 share-holding in Medical Developments was diluted to 4.50 percent (see above).

Earlier this year, FIL said it reduced its substantial holding in Medical Developments from 7,204,523 shares (8.35%) to 4,701,193 shares (5.45%) (BD: Mar 15, 2024).

AMPLIA THERAPEUTICS

Pengana Capital Group says it has ceased its substantial holding in Amplia following the sale of 1,700,000 shares on August 6, 2024 for \$222,677, or 13.1 cents a share.

Earlier this year, the Sydney-based Pengana said it had become substantial in Amplia with 15,200,044 shares, or 5.60 percent (BD: May 16, 2024).

According to its most recent filing, Amplia had 274,211,991 shares on offer, meaning that Pengana's remaining 13,500,044 share-holding amounted to about 4.92 percent of the company.

Amplia was up 0.8 cents or 6.3 percent to 13.5 cents with 1.6 million shares traded.